

New York Tribune.

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The Contract Graft.

District Attorney Whitman is making rapid progress in uncovering the contract graft. One "bagman" is under indictment and is expected to confess. Another is already adding the prosecution. Letters and signatures of men high in the Tammanyized state organization of the Democratic party already appear in the scandal. The "man higher up" seems more easily to be reached than he did in the police graft case.

Already counsel who make up the inner line of defense of Tammany Hall are beginning to appear in the proceedings. It is not the local lawyer who is advising the frightened "bagman" up in the state, but lawyers high in Tammany, close to the Delmonico coterie, attorneys who, if the depth of this scandal is revealed, will appear in the open as counsel for the men into whose pockets the money extorted from the sandbagged contractors ultimately went. Their activities signify much. But without them it is plain enough that big men were behind the gigantic conspiracy of blackmail into which the District Attorney is just throwing light. The "bagmen" had no authority except as they represented men with power to harass contractors, to hold up payment upon their work and destroy their hopes of profits. There must have been convincing evidence that the "bagmen's" threats would be carried out or the vast collection of graft would have been impossible. Who the principals in the blackmailing enterprise conducted by the "bagmen" were is still for Mr. Whitman to find out. The chances are that he will do so.

Fighting the High Cost of Living.

Two plans for reducing the high cost of living have been presented for consideration to the People's Institute. One is a comprehensive system of terminal markets, as advocated by the Market Commission appointed by Mayor Gaynor. These, placed at appropriate points, would so facilitate the handling of produce shipped to this city and eliminate cost of transshipment, rehandling and the like that their advocates maintain they would materially lower the prices of foodstuffs. The other plan is the issuance of paper money in denominations lower than \$1 and of coins in denominations of 2½, 3 and 12½ cents.

It is possible the odd-size coins might produce a reduction in the price of many small articles, as the backers of the scheme fondly think. Those who hope some time to pay less for the breakfast bacon and eggs, though, are more likely to find comfort in the terminal markets plan, far off as its realization may be.

Harvard's Survival of the Fittest.

Reports concerning entrance enrolment at Harvard differ radically from those at most other comparable institutions. Generally such reports tell simply of increase from year to year, and universities and colleges congratulate themselves upon that increase and often resort to measures for promoting it. Harvard, too, has such an increase; but the salient feature of her present report is the increase not in the number of students received but in the number rejected.

Upon that the university is to be congratulated in view of the cause of it, which is that the standard of scholarship required for entrance is being raised. That is salutary. The general raising of the standard and also a lengthening of the course in professional schools, particularly of law and medicine, has been calculated to discourage overcrowding of those callings and to exclude the least worthy candidates. The elimination of the less fit will do no less for liberal education as well.

The largest number of rejected candidates is made up of those who fail in English because the requirements in it are more exacting and the importance of it is more highly esteemed. Time has been when candidates would be passed who were incapable of writing an English paragraph correctly, while they would be rejected for only a few errors in Latin or Greek. It is well to have such folly forsaken and to have universities require a thorough knowledge of the vernacular as the first and most imperative condition of entrance.

The Big Work at Ashokan.

While the world's attention is fittingly being drawn to Panama by the completion of the canal we should not ignore the rapid approximation to completion which is being made upon another engineering work not unworthy to be compared with that at the isthmus. That is the new Catskill waterworks, which are to give this city an abundant supply for many years to come. The vast dam at Ashokan is now so nearly completed that the impounding of water has begun and there is already a greater depth than ever has been known before in a New York reservoir. The purpose of the present filling is to test the works and to wash out the reservoir, but it is a reminder that we are now within measurable distance of the permanent filling and putting into use of the marvellous system of aqueducts and mains which is being constructed underneath the streets of the city.

It is agreeable to record, also, that in efficiency of engineering and general executive operations this great enterprise has been conducted about as creditably as that at Panama. The one discreditable feature of it all has been the injection of political favoritism and graft into some departments, particularly that of the appraisal and condemnation of property.

The commissioners in charge of the work strove to avert those evils, which had so reeked to heaven in the former Croton Aqueduct business, but in vain. The old "system" was too strong for them, and so, quite over their heads and in spite of them, the old tricks were resorted to of spending ten dol-

lars in condemning one dollar's worth of land. It is too late to help that now, but the circumstance should afford a convincing argument and appeal for the adoption at the coming election of the constitutional amendment which is designed to abate that monstrous abuse.

Mayor Kline and the Schools.

Mayor Kline should not reappoint President Churchill as a member of the Board of Education. Mr. Churchill and his associates trade upon the name progressive, but the progress for which they stand is all backward, toward introducing politics in the schools and taking education out of the hands of experts and putting it into the hands of laymen. The reforms which he has proposed have all been rejected by leading educators throughout the country and by the principals and teachers of this city.

His original appointment was a misfortune. If his influence with Tammany had been sufficient to enable him to get through the Legislature last year all the "ripper" bills which he supported he would have done incalculable harm to the schools of the city. As it was, the only one of these mischievous measures to be enacted took the authority over the course of studies away from the educational experts in the system and placed it in the hands of the Board of Education, controlled by Mr. Churchill and his allies. The recent order intended to gag Superintendent Maxwell was a further example of the purposes and methods of the president of the board and his supporters.

Mayor Kline cannot do a worse thing for the city schools than to reappoint Mr. Churchill.

For an Unbossed Assembly.

If the next Legislature doesn't reflect in its attitude and programme the new spirit which is stirring in politics it will not be for lack of counsel to cut away from the old, stagnant order. Every element in the Assembly, except the handful of re-elected Murphyites, is being urged to make a reputation at Albany by doing things differently from the way they have been done in the era just ending.

The Republican members of Congress, naturally interested in making the best showing possible for the party in the next campaign, when all of them come up for re-election, have arranged for a "get-together" conference on December 5, at which will be discussed the opportunity now offered the party to come into line with the popular demand for change and progress. The New York Young Republican Club is trying to induce Republican Assemblymen-elect of progressive tendencies to act together and make their power felt when the Assembly organizes, and an even wider conference of progressives of all parties has been called to cement a union which will make the Assembly self-governing and lift it from the old rut of outside bossism.

All this shaking of dry bones is a proof that systems of party government in this state are beginning to be popularized once more and that legislators are coming to understand what the public now expects of them. The people are weary of seeing puppets at Albany dance on wires pulled from Delmonico's or from some other seat of authority. Such wires must be cut, and the party which cuts them first will have the first call next year with a plurality of the voters.

Social Work and Babies' Lives.

Critics of social welfare work and skeptics in general may study with profit the announcement of the Babies' Welfare Association telling of the efficiency of the milk stations in this city. The Department of Health conducted an investigation into the subject to ascertain the bearing of their work on infant mortality. It found that between January 1 and November 1 of this year the death rate of babies registered at the milk stations was only 4 in 1,000, as compared with 75 in 1,000 among all babies under two years of age in the city.

Naturally, the enrolment lists of the fifty-five milk stations are growing, as proud mothers advertise their advantages. It was due to the generosity of Mrs. Harriman that forty of these stations were in existence. The object lesson should be proof conclusive as to their worth, and there should be no question about "economy" in the city's equipping and maintaining a much larger number next year.

An Antidote to Mercury.

The country should pray that the operation performed on Mrs. Jacob Janin to prevent her death from mercury poisoning may prove a success. The taking of mercury, accidental or deliberate, since the death last spring of B. Sanders Walker, the Macon banker, has become a scandalous habit. It is high time that this modern avenue to the grave was blocked, preferably by an effectual restriction of the sale of the poison, but failing this ounce of prevention by the drastic cure now attempted.

If the removal and cleansing of the kidneys will actually prevent the death of this latest victim, it promises not only to save a great many other lives but to deter a large number of persons from living this means of suicide. The wide publicity given to the alleged testimony of various mercury victims has led to the general belief that mercury poisoning means a painless death. If, however, it means instead a major operation, with the probability that death will be cheated, then it can retain little to recommend it to the despondent.

In other words, the operation, if successful, should prevent almost as many cases as it cures.

New Style Football Is Mostly Old Style.

Judging from the more important games of the football season so far, conditions have not been greatly changed by the modification of the rules encouraging open play. The Princeton-Dartmouth game and Princeton-Harvard game, played on a water-soaked field, showed a reversion to the old style of straight ground gaining and kicking, and the Princeton-Yale game, played on dry turf, was marked by just as much conservatism. The only scores made by Princeton, Yale and Harvard in these contests were from drop kicks, just as used to be the case before the excessive premium put on defensive play was lessened by the rule makers after the season of 1911.

With teams pretty evenly matched, scoring by touchdowns is still extremely difficult. The defence still has the upper hand against a straight running attack, and the attack by means of the forward pass has not been developed successfully enough to warrant using it except as a sort of forlorn hope. The forward pass did not cut much figure in either the Princeton-Harvard or Princeton-Yale game. It failed for both Harvard and Yale when near the Princeton goal line. Not a yard was gained on Saturday by either Yale or Princeton through the use of the forward pass, although conditions under foot could not have been better for that style of attack. The Carlisle Indians overwhelmed Dartmouth

at the Polo Grounds by 35 to 10. Dartmouth tried eleven passes and gained in all twenty-seven yards, but the Indians tried none, preferring to win easily by straight football.

Undoubtedly football has been improved by the broadening of the rules and the greater latitude given to open play. Yet the big games this year show that the fundamentals of the sport are still the same, and that between antagonists of nearly equal strength the duel is still one essentially of line breaking, punting and drop kicking, with scoring, except through errors like a blocked kick or a muffed punt, held down to the minimum.

An upstate judge has had the temerity to fine several of "Packer" McCabe's committeemen for contempt of court. It's about time for "Packer" to advertise in the "Want" columns for a chateau near Croker's.

The "season," hot upon the trail of the campaign, has arrived. Not alone the football games, the horse show, the opera and the ticket speculation scandals, but the District Attorney, engaged again in his favorite sport of stalking the festive police grafter, prove it. New York should feel herself once more.

Ex-President Taft says that he was deceived by experts into pardoning Charles W. Morse. An expert's advice about the mental or physical condition of men charged with crime or seeking pardons for crime is usually subject to a trade discount of 55 per cent and then a few special discounts thrown in for good measure.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

"The puppet theatre and a Punch and Judy show were, once upon a time, synonymous terms," says a German actor in a letter from Berlin. "True, we know of Goethe's dolls and of his toy theatre which is still one of the sights of Frankfurt, but the Munich artists have made the production of serious plays on a puppet stage possible. Last night we saw the carved, painted and 'cut out' actors, manipulated by unseen hands, perform 'The Life and Tragic Death of the Notorious Arch Magician Dr. Faust' and heard monologues and dialogues spoken in unison with the string directed actors. Did we laugh? No. We were impressed and we knew that neither Faust nor Mephistopheles would drink wine or play cards after the show—and that was a satisfaction."

First Company Promoter to Second Ditto—Darned insult I call it! See what the old scoundrel did? Carefully counted each of his fingers after I shook hands with him!—The Tatler.

DOCKING THE TIGER'S TAIL.

Some cunning schemes, concocted here,
To keep the Tiger down
Will not avail to more than make
The prostrate Tiger frown;
That ancient beast, we all have learned,
Grows fiercer with the years,
So we would chop his tail off short—
Yes, right behind the ears.
Abbreviated in this style,
The Tiger's terror reign
Would end for good and he could not
Raid us for private gain;
That's why we urge and will insist,
Though scalding fall the tears,
We now should chop the Tiger's tail
Off short behind the ears.

E. C. H.

In a small country church, not long since, a little child was brought forward for baptism. The young minister, taking the little one in his arms, spoke as follows:

"Beloved hearers, no one can foretell the future of this little child. He may grow up to be a great astronomer, like Sir Isaac Newton, or a great leader like John Burns; and it is possible he might become the Prime Minister of England."

Turning to the mother, he inquired, "What is the name of the child?"

"Mary Ann," was the reply.—Tit-Bits.

"Who is Governor of New York?" Justice Emerson asked a candidate for naturalization at Watertown. "Charles F. Murphy," was the unhesitating answer.

"And who is Martin H. Glynn?" asked the justice.

"He is the one they put in after Sulzer was laid off."

The applicant was admitted to citizenship. "The Syracuse Post-Standard" informs us.

"I am thinking of touring in South Africa next season," remarked the comedian.

"Take my advice and don't," replied the villain. "An ostrich egg weighs from two to three pounds."—Tit-Bits.

Report says that Carnegie's physician has ordered him to take a glass of Scotch whisky each day. Hague and Hague?

"I always have tough luck."

"What's the matter?"

"I paid Brown \$5 that I borrowed from him several weeks ago."

"Where's the tough luck?"

"He said afterward that he'd forgotten all about it."—Detroit Free Press.

An American traveller, about to leave his London hotel to make connections by train with a New York bound steamer, had just given a servant a liberal tip. "I 'ope, sir," the servant said, "that you 'ave seen the Abbey."

"No," replied the American, "but I shall. I suppose I must tip him, too."

"I see that only fifteen out of every one hundred Mexicans are able to read and write," but there's one body is trying to write a play or contribute to the magazines."—Chicago Record-Herald.

The story of the lad who cried "Wolf!" to fool his neighbors had a modern version the other night in an uptown apartment house. Miss H. began taking music lessons. Everybody heard her and got more or less used to it. They tried not to pay any attention to it. But the other night Miss H. started to yell—as usual, every one thought—and the neighbors went right on trying to pay no attention to it. As a matter of fact, Miss H. had found a burglar in her apartment, and he got away with Miss H.'s jewels, just because every one did go right on paying no attention to her.

"They are always talkin' about the wonders of electricity," said Farmer Cornstossel, "but there's one of his greatest achievements they don't mention."

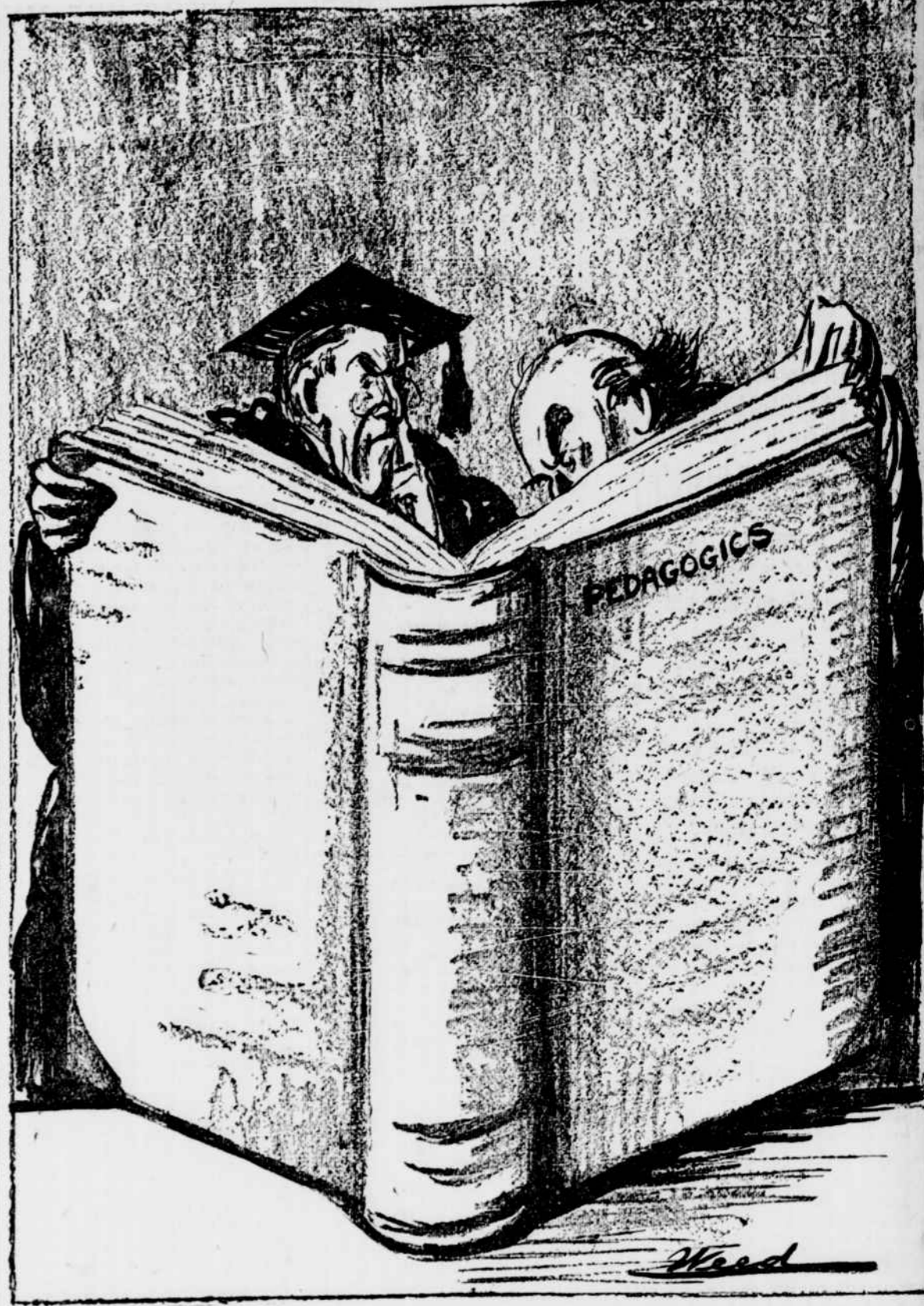
"To what do you refer?"

"The way it has killed off the fellers who made jokes about people who went to town and blew out the gas."—Washington Star.

Among the many stories which the celebration of Verdi's one hundredth birthday was responsible for was this, printed originally in "The Florence Nazionne": "Camille Saint-Saëns was present when Verdi's 'Hymn of All Nations' was rendered for the first time at the opening ceremonies of the World's Fair in London, and he gave this reason for the failure of the composition: 'This hymn was arranged to introduce the national anthem of the various countries, and not knowing that the 'Marseillaise' was at that time in bad repute it was used as representative of France. The Emperor Napoleon, when he heard the strains, turned pale, and the knowing ones in the audience were so greatly embarrassed that no one in the great throng dared applaud. Yes, one man did applaud, and that was I. Napoleon arose in his box and directed his opera glass toward me, and I looked at him through my glass. After a few moments the Emperor hurriedly departed.'"

"Has his family got a skeleton in the closet?" "I don't know about what they've got in the closet, but they've got one in a hobbie skirt."—Town Topics.

HUERTA STILL STICKS!



What is the next step in moral suasion?

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

THE BALLOT FOR WOMEN

Either That, Says a Reader, or Believe Them of Taxation.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your correspondent, Caroline Clifton Knapp, in your issue of to-day, has discussed the question of feminine suffrage with admirable ability. One aspect of the subject, however, has not been presented and this appears to be an opportune moment to advance it.

The principal grievance of our ancestors when they were colonists, and the one that above all others led to the American Revolution and our final independence of the British crown, was "taxation without representation." The injustice of such a rule was as clearly and conclusively explained and maintained in the halls of Parliament by the most eminent British statesmen, of whom Pitt, Fox and Barré are famous examples, as it was by Washington, Adams, Jefferson and others too numerous to mention among Americans. If that proposition is sound, the feminine portion of our population is clearly and conclusively entitled to either the ballot or relief from taxation.

Feminine suffrage is now an established right in nine states and there is a steadily increasing sentiment in favor of it throughout the country. The time is apparently not far distant when it will be an established right in every state.

Many believe that it would be degrading to the fair sex to participate in the elective franchise; but it is altogether probable that such a result would not be realized, but, on the contrary, that the elective franchise would be purified, ennobled and made more efficient.

The famous reigns of Elizabeth, in England; Catharine II. in Russia; Maria Theresa, in Austria, and Margaret, sometimes termed "The Semiramis of the North," in Denmark, are unsurpassed by any others on record. Christopher Columbus, after having been rudely repulsed by every other sovereign in Europe, was finally appreciated and supplied by Isabella with the requisite means to make the voyage that resulted in the discovery of America. Nobody need fear the ladies as participants in the elective franchise. WILLIAM R. BALDWIN. Liberty, N. Y., Nov. 14, 1913.

THE MANUFACTURE OF EGGS

Process at Professor Egelston's Plant at South Egremont Described.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The solution of the egg problem bids fair to be solved and without the intervention of the patient hen, as the celebrated chemist of Yale, Professor Egelston, has at last produced artificial eggs at the State Experiment Station, South Egremont, Mass., and on a commercial basis, and larger plants are to be established in all of the large cities, and ground has just been broken at the corner of Eglantine and Henry streets, in Bronx Borough, with rail connection, for a large factory, as here the carbonate of lime, sulphur and albumen can be handled without cartage.

As to the exact process of making these synthetic eggs little is known, but it is understood that the raw material is mixed in large revolving drums, and when of the proper consistency is run out into square moulds, it having been found that eggs of this shape are more economically packed and shipped than the ordinary shape. And we may mention in passing that the eggs are made in different colors, viz., white for the New York market and brown for Boston, and can also be made red and blue for Easter.

We hear that the great trouble to be overcome in their manufacture was in

providing albumen in sufficient quantities, but Professor Egelston discovered that by treating the common eggplant and the eggplant shrub with eagle's acid an abundant supply was obtained, while at the same time was eliminated albumenose, which is thought by scientists to be the cause of albuminuria or Bright's disease.

The importance of this discovery can hardly be exaggerated, as it will not only give the people fresh eggs at about 30 cents a dozen, but will so cheapen poultry as to place it on the table of even the very poorest, and also incidentally reduce the price of all kinds of meat. The name of the new industry is "the Health-Rescue Egg Company," and about 1,000 dozen eggs will be turned out every minute, which, working night and day, means enough to supply the whole city. FITZ NIGEL. New York, Nov. 14, 1913.

THE MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN

Some Reflections on Its Conduct and Lessons.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Without any desire to encroach too much on your valuable space, may I ask your permission, as an independent in politics and an admirer of the dignified tone of your campaign editorials, to make what I shall presume to characterize as a few pertinent allusions to the late city election? Public speakers who resort to odious personalities, who interperse their "arguments" with vituperative attacks on their opponents, cannot consistently lay claim to any higher standard of morality or intelligence than that possessed by the intemperate disciple of Bacchus who emphasizes his "maudlin" conceptions with sundry oaths and imprecations.

For the latter class there is, generally speaking, if not some toleration, at least charitable consideration, as poverty of language is frequently responsible for the use of vulgar or profane phraseology, but with the copious vocabulary of the English tongue at his disposal there should be no excuse for the use of "billingsgate" on the part of any orator deemed entitled to a place in the category of forcible speakers. He could be sarcastic without being unduly offensive, eulogistic without being sycophantic and dignified without being egotistical. It is safe to assume, however, that the absence of any tangible or well defined issue outside of the vague or abstract one of "good government"—a phrase so indefinite as to be capable of many interpretations, according to the liberal, the restricted or the puritanical construction placed upon it by its various protagonists—was mainly responsible for the style of oratory affected. Even if a concrete issue did present itself in the late campaign it was lost sight of, because merged in that holler-than-thou attitude which is always suggestive of hypocrisy, especially when assumed for political effect.

For Tammany—which some vigorous opponents of the Wigwam wanted to make an issue—the subscriber does not presume to hold any brief, but he ventures to assert with some confidence in his judgment that there are some men allied with that organization who are just as capable, and as conscientious as some of the most captious of their critics; while he does not hesitate to add that he is perfectly convinced that politics, or the science of government, as it is technically understood, is as much of an enigma to the majority of its members as the binomial theory to the average schoolboy. The *raison d'être* of Tammany is the acquisition of office and power by its faithful followers; its policies being a matter of secondary consideration altogether, political economy has to give way to political jobbery there.

As many conservative citizens content with some show of reason that in local

elections party lines should be eliminated and capable men chosen, irrespective of their political affiliations, would it not inaugurate a happy era in local affairs if all the political machines could be shattered altogether, and the arrogant bosses of an indefensible system not only deprived of their arbitrary powers, the possession of which they in a sad reflection on republican institutions, but relegated to a political obscurity from which they should never be allowed to emerge?

Experience—that useful monitor—has shown that New York is capable of going from one extreme to another, for in too many of our local solons have we found a disposition to exploit citizens at the expense of their personal liberty, while unbridled license has marked the administration of others. What is needed in a cosmopolitan city like New York is a happy medium between the two extremes which shall insure to citizens protection and save them from oppression. JOHN JOSEPH O'DRISCOLL. New York, Nov. 15, 1913.

TOO PRECIOUS FOR PAVEMENTS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: We see so much about conservation of our resources, mainly forests. The city of New York is paving many miles of streets with wooden pavement, and my observation leads me to believe such a pavement in our streets (with the heavy traffic) a waste of money, as this pavement will not last over a year, when it will have to be renewed, if whole or part. Many of your readers will remember the "Nicholson pavement" craze. The first block was laid in Nassau street and lasted but a short time. The government should not allow our forests to be used for paving streets. CONSERVATOR. New York, Nov. 14, 1913.

NEW YORK FROM THE SUBURBS.

A few weeks more, and some newspapers in New York will make up their minds that Mitchell wears horns instead of a halo.—Charleston News and Courier.

If there is room for one more society in New York City we can suggest a name and purpose for it. Call it New York's Reputation Club, and make its motto Calmness, Hospitality and Mere Politeness.—Syracuse Post-Standard.

A movement to protect the country boy has been launched in New York. Judging from the past, it is also important to find some way to protect New York from the country boy.—Springfield Republican.

Senator Borah says Mexico is as bad as New York, and it doesn't seem as if anything in the world could now keep Huerta from declaring war.—Philadelphia North American.

Judging by the newspaper reports, New York pastors will be neglecting their duty if they do not start revivals at once.—Washington Herald.

A New York dramatic critic pleads for a good "domestic drama," but the financial difficulties that stand in the way of such an undertaking seem almost insurmountable when it is recalled that, while it is a source of no little revenue, the patronage of visitors to that city does not form the bulk of the income which producing managers receive from their efforts.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

INDIRECT DECEPTION.

From The Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Why do some men buy burglar-proof safes? That's what a gang of disreputable New York cracksmen wants to know. They opened four of these safes in that city the other night, and after an infinite deal of hard work and a lot of painful anxiety managed to dig out \$15 in the aggregate. It's this sort of unfair dealing that is driving a lot of New York grocers into honest professions.